

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: PETROVIC, Zmaj

SERIAL NO.: (International Appn No. PCT/FR03/01148)

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TITLE: CONVEYOR UNIT WITH ACCUMULATION OF RECEPTACLES SUCH AS BOTTLES

Preliminary Amendment: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) Conveyor unit with accumulation of receptacles (2) such as bottles, said conveyor unit comprising:

an accumulation table (3);

~~onto which a feed conveyor (5) opens out opening out and onto the table upstream from the table; and~~

~~a passive aligned, whilst downstream (7), this from the table (3) supplies and being supplied~~ said receptacles (2) ~~onto a~~ from the table, said passive aligner (8) ~~designed capable of~~ conveying the latter receptacles in one single row to a processing unit downstream (9), characterized in that the, wherein said passive aligner (8) runs parallel to the said accumulator table (3), the latter, said accumulator table further comprising, in the a downstream extension thereof, a transfer conveyor (17), on which the receptacles (2) are pushed laterally by a guiding rail (15) towards said passive aligner (8) onto a juxtaposed transition conveyor (19) running in the an opposite direction which defines the feed conveyor for said passive aligner (8).

2. (Currently amended) Conveying unit with accumulation according to claim 1, characterized in that the wherein said transition conveyor (19) is topped with a guiding rail (21) provided for pushing back the receptacles transversally with respect to their progression thereof, this and in a direction opposite to the one that is imparted to them the receptacles by a guiding rail (14) above a table (11) corresponding to the passive aligner (8).

3. (Currently amended) Conveying unit with accumulation according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the Claim 1, wherein said transition conveyor (19) is followed by is comprised of a juxtaposition of chains (22) which have having an increasing speed gradient in a transversal direction while separating from the transfer conveyor (17).